



Dean A. Lerner, Director

Providers Reminded to Review Emergency Plans In Light of Flood Warnings

DES MOINES, IOWA (June 29, 2010) – The Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals (DIA) reminds long-term care facilities, assisted living programs, and other health care providers that there is a continued risk of significant flooding in many areas of the state. As such, facilities, programs, and health care providers may want to review their emergency plans now in the event that it becomes necessary to evacuate their buildings and relocate their residents, tenants, and patients.

Should it become necessary to implement an emergency evacuation plan, the affected entity must notify the Department's Health Facilities Division of the situation. Contact information for the Health Facilities Division may be downloaded from the Division's web page at https://dia-hfd.iowa.gov/DIA_HFD/Home.do. Additional emergency preparation information is available from the Department's web site at <http://www.dia.iowa.gov/page32.html>.

If a facility, program or health care provider is unable to contact the bureau chief or program coordinator responsible for its area, it may contact J Bennett, Division Administrator, at 515-669-0976, or Kathy Sutton, Assistant Division Administrator, at 515-669-5217.

As of 11 a.m. Tuesday, June 29th, flood warnings had been issued for 42 Iowa counties. The National Weather Service issues flood warnings when general flooding is occurring or is imminent in the general area. Flood warnings are issued when the flooding is expected six hours after excessive rainfall. The affected counties are: Black Hawk, Boone, Bremer, Buena Vista, Butler, Cedar, Cherokee, Clay, Clinton, Dallas, Des Moines, Dickinson, Emmet, Fremont, Greene, Hamilton, Humboldt, Iowa, Jasper, Johnson, Keokuk, Kossuth, Lee, Louisa, Madison, Mahaska, Marion, Marshall, Monona, Muscatine, O'Brien, Palo Alto, Plymouth, Polk, Scott, Sioux, Van Buren, Wapello, Warren, Webster, Woodbury and Wright.

Major cities within the warned counties include Burlington, Clinton, Davenport, Des Moines, Fort Dodge, Iowa City, Keokuk, Marshalltown, Ottumwa, Sioux City, Storm Lake, and Waterloo.

Yesterday, Iowa Governor Chet Culver added four more counties to a disaster emergency proclamation as a result of the severe weather. He added Cherokee, Mahaska, Polk, and Warren counties. The proclamation allows the counties to use state resources to deal with the aftermath of the storms. Fourteen counties are now on the list, which also includes Ringgold, Union, Taylor, Hancock, Wright, Franklin, Decatur, Marion, Monroe, and Sioux.